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*Branch Hydrographic Office, San Francisco, January 4th.*—  
Captain J. H. TRASK of the steamer Sonoma reports to this office that on December 2, 1915, in latitude south  $22^{\circ} 08'$ , longitude east  $177^{\circ} 47'$ , passed thru large quantities of pumice dust and stones. The whole mass had a dirty green color and extended for several miles around the ship.

CHARLES P. HUFF,  
*Lieut.-Com. U. S. N., in charge.*  
(*S. F. Chronicle*, Jan. 5, 1916.)

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC, HELD IN  
THE ROOMS OF THE SOCIETY ON JANUARY  
29, 1916, AT 7:30 P. M.

There were present: President R. G. AITKEN and Directors TOWNLEY, CUSHING, COSTA, MARKWART, CORNISH, LEUSCHNER and RICHARDSON.

Communication was read from Prof. W. J. HUSSEY, Director of the Detroit Observatory, asking that he be made a Life Member. He was elected by unanimous vote.

Mr. HARLOW SHAPLEY was elected as an Active Member of the Society.

The matter of increasing the membership of the Society and reducing the dues was introduced by President AITKEN and discussed by the Board.

On motion of TOWNLEY, seconded by CUSHING, President AITKEN was appointed a committee of one, with authority to add such other members as he may think fit, and instructed to submit recommendations at the next meeting of the Board.

Attention of the Board was called to the fact that little use is made of the library of the Society—and opinions invited as to the policy of turning the books on hand over to one of the large popular libraries of the city of San Francisco.

The Library Committee was instructed to investigate the matter and report at next meeting.

Adjourned.

D. S. RICHARDSON, *Secretary.*

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASTRONOMICAL  
SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC, HELD IN THE ASSEMBLY  
HALL OF THE PHELAN BUILDING, SAN FRANCISCO,  
ON JANUARY 29, 1916, AT 8:00 O'CLOCK P. M.

President R. G. AITKEN in the chair.

On motion of Director LEUSCHNER the minutes of the last annual meeting were approved as printed.

Mr. CUSHING, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported that the books and accounts of the Society had been audited and that all property of the Society had been properly accounted for by the Treasurer.

The following report of the Comet-Medal Committee was read by the Secretary and accepted:—

REPORT OF THE COMET-MEDAL COMMITTEE.

MOUNT HAMILTON, January 20, 1916.

The comets for the year 1915 have been the following:—

1915a—Unexpected comet discovered by JOHN E. MELLISH at Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, on February 10th.

1915b—Winnecke's periodic comet photographed by M. H. THIELE, Hamburg, Germany, on April 4th.

1915c—Periodic comet, *Tempel*<sub>2</sub>, observed on its return by P. T. DELAVAN, La Plata, Argentina, on May 16th.

1915d—Unexpected comet discovered by JOHN E. MELLISH, Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, on September 13th.

1915e—Unexpected comet discovered by C. J. (?) TAYLOR, Cape of Good Hope, South Africa, December 2nd.

In accordance with the statutes the Donohoe Comet-Medal has been awarded for the discoveries of comets a, d, and e.

Respectfully submitted,

Committee on the Comet-Medal:

W. W. CAMPBELL,

R. H. TUCKER,

HEBER D. CURTIS.

The Chairman of the Library Committee reported that there had been no additions to the books of the library during past year.

The Society then proceeded to the election of a Board of Directors and a Publication Committee for the ensuing year.

The following nominations were made by R. T. CRAWFORD, Chairman of the Nominating Committee:—

*For Board of Directors*—W. W. CAMPBELL, H. D. CURTIS, CHAS. BURCKHALTER, WM. H. CROCKER, C. S. CUSHING, F. V. CORNISH, B. L. HODGHEAD, A. O. LEUSCHNER, A. H. MARKWART, D. S. RICHARDSON, S. D. TOWNLEY.

*For Publication Committee*—R. G. AITKEN, H. D. CURTIS, H. SHAPLEY,

The President appointed Messrs. COSTA and BRASCH as tellers and announced that the ballots would be collected and counted later in the evening.

President AITKEN then proceeded to deliver his address incidental to the award of the Bruce Gold Medal for the year 1916, which goes to Prof. GEO. E. HALE, Director of the Solar Observatory at Pasadena.

The address, which is printed elsewhere, was a generous appreciation of the merits, and distinguished services to astronomy, of Prof. HALE. At its close, Prof. HALE, who was present, acknowledged the honor conferred upon him in a very gracious speech, claiming that any honors coming to him should be shared equally with those who have labored with him.

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Following the presentation of the medal, Dr. H. D. CURTIS, of Lick Observatory, addressed the Society upon the subject of "Recent Theories in Stellar Evolution." The fascinating subject was illustrated by many lantern slides and closely followed by an appreciative audience of about two hundred people.

At the close of the speaking, the tellers collected and counted the ballots, which showed that the officers as above nominated had been duly elected to serve for the ensuing year.

Adjourned.

D. S. RICHARDSON, *Secretary*.

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## REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JANUARY 29, 1916. GENERAL STATEMENT.

### Assets of the Society—

17 Bonds, estimated value .....	\$17,154 69
Cash in Bank to credit of Funds.....	2,732 03
	<hr/>
Total.....	\$19,886 72
Liabilities of the Society, none.	

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### CASH STATEMENTS BY FUND. WILLIAM ALVORD FUND.

<i>Dr.</i>	
To Balance January 30, 1915.....	\$ 384 87
Interests and Dividends in 1915.....	210 52
	<hr/>
Total.....	\$ 595 39
<i>Cr.</i>	
By Transfers to General Fund.....	210 52
	<hr/>
Balance January 29, 1916.....	\$ 384 87

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### LIBRARY FUND.

<i>Dr.</i>	
To Balance January 30, 1915.....	\$ 99 78
Interests and Dividends in 1915.....	163 84
	<hr/>
Total.....	\$ 263 62
<i>Cr.</i>	
By Transfers to General Fund.....	183 84
	<hr/>
Balance January 29, 1916.....	\$ 79 78

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### JOHN DOLBEER FUND.

<i>Dr.</i>	
To Balance January 30, 1915.....	\$ 467 98
Interests and Dividends in 1915.....	233 88
	<hr/>
Total.....	\$ 701 86
<i>Cr.</i>	
By Transfers to General Fund.....	233 88
	<hr/>
Balance January 29, 1916.....	\$ 467 98

*Publications of the**Dr.* LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND.

To Balance January 30, 1915.....	\$ 71 07
One Life Member .....	50 00
Interests and Dividends in 1915.....	92 86
Total.....	\$ 213 93

*Cr.*

By Transfers to General Fund.....	92 86
Balance January 29, 1916.....	\$ 121 07

*Dr.* BRUCE MEDAL FUND.

To Balance January 30, 1915.....	\$ 635 67
Interests and Dividends in 1915.....	148 99
Total.....	\$ 784 66

*Cr.*

By Expenditures, 2 Medals.....	220 00
Balance January 29, 1916.....	\$ 564 66

*Dr.* DONOHUE COMET MEDAL FUND.

To Balance January 30, 1915.....	\$ 923 83
Dividends in 1915.....	37 30
Total.....	\$ 961 13

*Cr.*

By Balance January 29, 1916.....	\$ 961 13
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*Dr.* GENERAL FUND.

To Balance January 30, 1915.....	\$ 324 74
Receipts from Dues .....	406 25
Sales of <i>Publications</i> .....	72 50
Dolbeer Fund .....	233 88
Alvord Fund .....	210 52
Library Fund .....	183 84
Life Membership Fund .....	142 86
Bruce Medal Fund .....	14 44
From a Friend .....	2 50
Total.....	\$1,591 53

*Cr.*

By Blair-Murdock Co., printing .....	\$ 783 50
Rents .....	242 50
Salaries .....	240 00
Mercantile Trust Co., care of bonds.....	36 34
Sunset Publishing Co., cuts .....	27 30
Lantern service .....	10 00
Taxes .....	7 65
Insurance .....	8 40
Crocker safe deposit box.....	4 00
Engraving .....	3 60
Shelving .....	2 50
Postages .....	23 20
Transfer to Life Membership Fund.....	50 00
Total.....	\$1,438 99

Balance January 29, 1916.....	\$ 152 54
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SECURITIES HELD BY THE SOCIETY.

These securities are all of the face denominations of \$1,000, and the values given represent their original cost to the Society.

*Life Membership Fund.*

One South Pacific Coast Railroad Company's 1st mortgage, guaranteed 4 per cent Gold Bond, No. 3406. Principal due July, 1937; interest payable in January and July.....	\$1,000 00
One Los Angeles Gas and Electric general mortgage 5 per cent Gold Bond, No. 712. Principal due July 1, 1934; interest payable January 1st and July 1st.....	996 25

*Alexander Montgomery Library Fund.*

One Oakland Transit consolidated 1st consolidated mortgage 5 per cent Gold Bond, No. 4328. Principal due July, 1932; interest payable January and July .....	1,040 00
One Contra Costa Water Company's 5 per cent Gold Bond, No. 1665. Principal due January, 1915; interest payable January and July..	1,035 00
One-half Los Angeles Gas and Electric general mortgage 5 per cent Gold Bond, No. 714. Principal due January 1, 1934; interest payable January 1st and July 1st.....	497 50
One Blue Lakes Water Company 6 per cent 1st mortgage Gold Bond, No. 380. Principal due 1938; interest payable March 15th and September 15th .....	1,001 25

*Bruce Medal Fund.*

One Bay Counties Power Company 1st consolidated mortgage 5 per cent sinking fund Gold Bond, No. 1636. Principal due September, 1930; interest payable March and September.....	1,012 50
One Edison Electric Company, Los Angeles, 1st and refunding mortgage 5 per cent Gold Bond, No. 6836. Principal due September, 1922; interest payable in March and September.....	977 22
One-half Los Angeles Gas and Electric general mortgage 5 per cent Gold Bond, No. 714. Principal due January 1, 1934; interest payable January 1st and July 1st.....	497 50

*John Dolbeer Fund.*

One South Pacific Coast Railway Company's 1st mortgage 4 per cent guaranteed Gold Bond, No. 3407. Principal due July, 1937; interest payable in January and July.....	1,000 00
One Oakland Transit consolidated 1st consolidated mortgage 5 per cent Gold Bond, No. 4329. Principal due July, 1932; interest payable January and July .....	1,040 00
One Bay Counties Power Company 1st consolidated mortgage 5 per cent sinking fund Gold Bond, No. 1637. Principal due September, 1930; interest payable March and September.....	1,012 50
One Edison Electric Company, Los Angeles, 1st and refunding mortgage 5 per cent Gold Bond, No. 6837. Principal due September, 1922; interest payable in March and September.....	977 22
One-half Los Angeles Gas and Electric general mortgage 5 per cent Gold Bond, No. 713. Principal due January 1, 1934; interest payable January 1st and July 1st.....	497 50

*William Alford Fund.*

Two Contra Costa Water Company's 5 per cent Gold Bonds, Nos. 87 and 1666. Principal due January, 1915; interest payable in January and July .....	2,071 50
One-half Los Angeles Gas and Electric general mortgage 5 per cent Gold Bond, No. 713. Principal due January 1, 1934; interest payable January 1st and July 1st.....	497 50
One Blue Lakes Water Company 6 per cent 1st mortgage Gold Bond, No. 381. Principal due 1938; interest payable March 15th and September 15th .....	1,001 25

One Moulton Irrigated Lands Company 6 per cent 1st mortgage Gold Bond, No. 144. Principal due December 15, 1918; interest payable June 15th and December 15th.....	1,000 00
Seventeen bonds, original cost.....	17,154 69

## NOTE.

This Society is the owner of three of the underlying 5% Gold Bonds of the Contra Costa Water Company which came to maturity in January, 1915. The said corporation defaulted in the payment of interests due on July 1, 1914, and its affairs are now in process of reorganization.

By authority of the Finance Committee, these bonds were deposited by the Treasurer, under date of August 23, 1915, with the Reorganization Committee of The People's Water Company, known as the Bowles-Drum Committee and represented by the Savings Union Bank and Trust Company of San Francisco.

The July, 1914, coupons on these bonds were paid in September, 1915, and there is at present due from this source, aside from the face value of the bonds, the sum of \$225.00.

A report of the Reorganization Committee of the People's Water Company, bearing date of January 8, 1916, announces that gratifying progress is being made in the incorporation of a new company and the preparation of new securities to take the place of the present outstanding bonds.

The Society is also the owner of one 6% First Mortgage Gold Bond of the Moulton Irrigated Lands Company, No. 144.

By authority of the Board of Directors, this bond was withdrawn from the custody of the Mercantile Trust Company in December, 1915, and deposited with the First Federal Trust Company, where it is now held under an option given to this Society to take its face value in cash, plus a bonus of \$10.00, or to accept the bond of a new issue, in equal amount and interest, plus a bonus of \$10.00.

During the year 1915 one Life Member was added to the Society and eleven Active Members. There were seven resignations.

D. S. RICHARDSON, *Secretary-Treasurer.*

Accounts examined and found correct.

CHARLES S. CUSHING,  
FRANK V. CORNISH,  
J. COSTA,  
*Auditing Committee.*

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEWLY ELECTED BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS OF THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE  
PACIFIC, HELD IN THE ROOMS OF THE SOCIETY,  
725 PHELAN BUILDING, SAN FRANCISCO, ON  
JANUARY 29, 1916, AT 10:00 P. M.

There were present Directors H. D. CURTIS, C. S. CUSHING, F. V.

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CORNISH, A. O. LEUSCHNER, A. H. MARKWART, S. D. TOWNLEY and D. S. RICHARDSON.

The meeting was called to order by Director CUSHING and proceeded at once to organize by the election of the following officers for the ensuing year :—

*For President*—S. D. TOWNLEY.

*First Vice-President*—C. S. CUSHING.

*Second Vice-President*—H. D. CURTIS.

*Third Vice-President*—A. H. MARKWART.

*Secretary and Treasurer*—D. S. RICHARDSON.

President TOWNLEY appointed the following committees :—

*Finance Committee*—C. S. CUSHING, W. H. CROCKER and A. H. MARKWART.

*Library Committee*—D. S. RICHARDSON, F. V. CORNISH and F. E. BRASCH.

Action upon the Comet-Medal Committee was deferred by the President for further consideration.

Adjourned.

D. S. RICHARDSON, *Secretary*.